

## Idaho WIOA State Plan – Section VI - Program-Specific Requirements

### *Optional Partner – Trade Adjustment Assistance*

The Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program is a Federal program that offers a variety of benefits and services to workers whose employment has been adversely impacted by foreign trade. Through a number of benefits and services, the TAA program provides trade-affected workers with opportunities to obtain the support, resources, skills, and credentials they need to return to the workforce in a good job. These include employment and case management services, training, job search allowances, relocation allowances, reemployment and alternative TAA wage subsidies for older workers, and income support in the form of Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA).

**(a) The TAA program is a required partner in the one-stop delivery system, established under section 121 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Therefore, given that the TAA program is part of the broader workforce system and a key goal for the TAA program is to ensure that trade-affected workers are able to successfully return to work, ETA strongly encourages States to integrate their TAA program activities in concert with other workforce system core and partner programs that may also address the needs of trade-affected workers. WIOA Sec. 103(3)(A)(B). Consistent with the Governor-Secretary Agreement, the States agree to use funds obligated under the TAA Annual Cooperative Financial Agreement (CFA), to carry out the TAA program, including: 1) ensuring integration of the TAA program into its one-stop delivery system; 2) using the centers in this system or network as the main point of participant intake and delivery of TAA program benefits and services; and 3) ensuring the terms of the Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with the Local Workforce Investment Boards, as established under WIOA section 121(c) will apply to the assistance provided by other one-stop partners to TAA participants. (Trade Act Sec. 239 (a) as amended by WIOA section 512 (hh))**

**Describe the State's process for operating the TAA program that ensures coordination and integration with WIOA core and partner programs. Provide examples, if available, of how the co-location of Wagner-Peyser in the one-stop centers and the addition of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), have improved access to these services for trade-affected workers.**

The Idaho Department of Labor Workforce Services Division is the administrator for TAA, Wagner-Peyser, WIOA Title IB, and Veterans employment and training programs. Idaho Department of Labor is also the administrator of the Unemployment Insurance programs. The Department ensures that the administration as well as the service delivery of these programs are coordinated to avoid duplication of services and better service to the seekers.

After receipt of a WARN notice or other knowledge of local area layoffs, potentially trade-affected workers are contacted by a Rapid Response team made up of One-Stop partners. The Rapid Response team provides information about the full array of One-Stop services, such as UI, W-P Employment Services, TAA and WIOA. These workers are directed to the One-Stops for immediate W-P, WIOA, or UI services, even before a Trade petition is filed. After a Trade petition is approved, trade-affected workers are contacted specifically to alert them of their entitled benefits.

Rapid Response team members work closely with service provider management staff to develop a service delivery plan that coordinates resources and ensures One-Stop access to information and enrollment in UI, TAA, WIOA, and Wagner-Peyser, many times at the job site prior to dislocation. Idaho's Rapid Response

delivery system provides the impacted worker with coordinated application and enrollment for WIOA, TAA, and Wagner-Peyser services. Forms used for WIOA career assessment and retraining plans are accepted for the TAA program, eliminating client redundancies and streamlining co-enrollment processes. Although co-enrollment is not mandated, Rapid Response service delivery planning has ensured the majority of TAA recipients in Idaho are also being served with WIOA funds. The state requires co-enrollment of TAA recipients whenever they receive WIOA staff or other supportive services.

**(b) States must develop and manage resources (including electronic case management systems) to integrate data, including co-enrollment data, provided through different agencies administering benefits and services to trade-affected workers in order to ensure consistent program administration and fiscal integrity, as well as reliable fiscal and performance reporting. (WIOA section 103(b)(3))**

**Describe how the State will use TAA funding for infrastructure, other shared costs, and the promotion of the development of integrated intake, case management and reporting systems.**

Administrative funding for TAA is already being used to support an integrated intake, case management, and reporting systems developed by America's Job Link Alliance called IdahoWorks. IdahoWorks primarily supports Wagner-Peyser, WIOA Title IB and TAA programs and more programs can be added. Approximately one-third of the total cost of the system is funded from TAA; however this may adjust as cost sharing is refined among more partner programs.

TAA services are tracked in IdahoWorks, allowing coordination of re-employment planning and service delivery. This is especially helpful when partners such as WIOA case management staff have access to information on programs, services, dates and associated case notes.

**(c) Except for States covered by the regulatory exemption 20 CFR 618.890 (c) or to perform non-inherently governmental functions, States must engage only State government personnel to perform TAA-funded functions undertaken to carry out the TAA program, and must apply to such personnel the standards for a merit system of personnel administration applicable to personnel covered under 5 CFR part 900, subpart F. (20 CFR 618.890)**

**Describe how TAA program-funded benefits and services are approved by merit-staffed employees in accordance with 20 CFR 618.890.**

Idaho employs merit-based State of Idaho, Department of Labor employees to deliver TAA program-funded benefits and services.

## **Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Program Assurances**

<b>The State Plan must include assurances that:</b>	
1.	On an annual basis, the CSA will execute TAA Cooperative Financial Agreements and UI Funding Agreements for each fiscal year during the four-year State planning cycle.
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